Developing Guidance and Incident Reporting for Operations Using Dynamic Positioning

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Abstract

In 1972 a trade association for professional commercial diving companies, the International Association of Diving Contractors (AODC), was established and in 1990 another association this time for DP vessel owners and operators, Dynamic Positioning Vessel Owners Association (DPVOA), was set up. At this time many of the diving companies were working from the dynamically positioned vessels belonging to DPVOA members. However it should be remembered that the DPVOA membership was intended to cover such areas as drilling and pipelay in addition to dive support.

Trade associations are formed by companies operating within the same area of industry and can promote common interests and improvements in quality, health, safety, environmental and technical issues within that industry. Both the DPVOA and AODC where established as these industrial sectors emerged as driving forces within the marine area in which they operate.

"When should a trade association be established….Where a new industrial sector emerges, particularly one which is subject to regulation. Recent examples include Internet service providers, the provision of some services via the Internet such as health advice, professional rugby clubs, train operating companies, cable television suppliers and self employed IT consultants." – *Trade Association Forum.*

Five years after the formation of the DPVOA, and in recognition of common interests and goals in some areas, these two trade associations merged in 1995 to form the International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA), the international trade association representing offshore, marine and underwater engineering companies. IMCA now has a membership in excess of 400, a number which is growing every month.

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